# AIM

THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT

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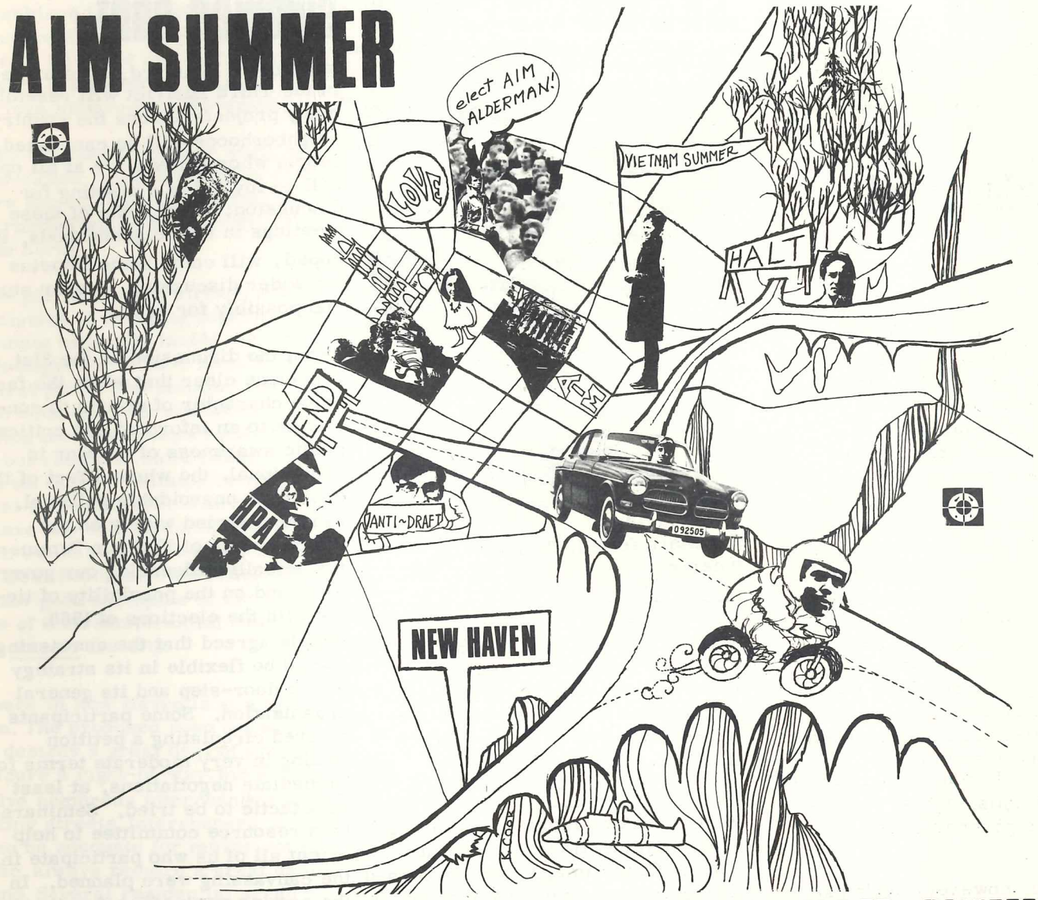


## LOOP ROAD REPORT

For some time now the city of New Haven has been publicly advocating construction of a highway from the Trumbull Street Exit of I-91 to the extension of the Oak Street Connector (Route 34) in the area of Howe or Dwight Street. Future plans call for the construction of a roadway down Howard Avenue, which would cut over in front of the railroad station on Columbus Avenue, intersect again with the connector, and connect back to the intersection of

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## ALDERMANIC CAMPAIGN

Doubt and uncertainty becloud the forthcoming municipal elections in New Haven. The new ward plan of the Democrats is now in the courts, challenged by the Republicans. Will there be an election on schedule? Will old or new ward lines be observed? These questions have no doubt caused you endless sleepless nights.

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## VIETNAM SUMMER

Vietnam Summer is a nation-wide campaign to help people who have not yet voiced their concern about the war find a way to do so and to enlarge that part of the electorate able to take a critical perspective on American actions in Vietnam.

About 50 people met at the AIM office on May 31 to work out details of strategy and organization of the proposed Vietnam Summer in the New Haven area. The Branford and Guilford groups held a similar

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# AIM

Editorial Staff
Elizabeth Henderson
Noel Kane
Richard Beth
Linda Prokopy
The bulletin of the American Independent Movement will be published every two or three weeks.
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Subscriptions to the AIM newsletter cost $2 a year, $5 for a sponsoring subscription
Fill out your checks to AIM newsletter and send to
IPAC
241 Orange Street
New Haven, 06510.
For information write, or call 787-0123.

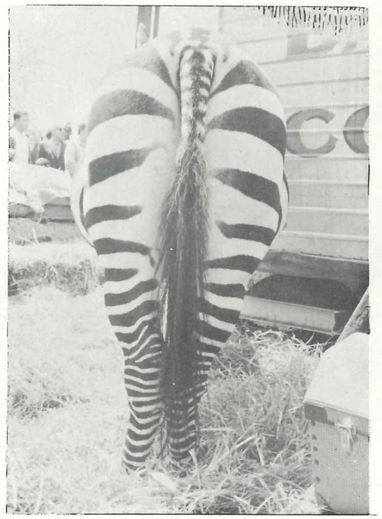

## campaign cont.

And so they should, for we all know how critical a role the Board of Aldermen plays in everyones' life. A few cynics would have us believe the Aldermen are playthings of the city's bureaucracy on the one hand and the ruling Party on the other. Some Aldermen are cynics. Some disillusioned liberals exclaim against the style of Aldermanic meetings wherein all matters are decided behind the closed doors of the Democratic "caucus." These liberals are insulted when the Aldermen, returned from the caucus where decisions were made, merely run through them for the record and for the Register. "Undemocratic, illegal," cry the liberals, aghast at "this parody of a governing body."

We in AIM, however, don't like perpetual fault-finders. We appreciate the hard work that must have gone into the complete extinction of all discussion of serious city problems by the Board. We appreciate the ingenuity of those who drew up the new ward lines in the best tradition of hack urban party machines. We truly admire the imaginative, even slightly incredible, shape of the proposed Ward 27, a veritable tour de force. We are only sadde ned to observe the nearly total absence of New Haven citizens from most Aldermanic meetings. Why, a visitor from another city would think that no one came because nothing that matters ever came up in public meetings of the Board, which may be true elsewhere, BUT, IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE.

AIM is looking into the up-coming municipal elections. Concerned for the City's image, and concerned to inspire the cynics and disillusioned liberals to a renewed civic sense we aim to inject some new life into municipal politics. We proceed with great fear and trembling, knowing - because we have heard it so many, many times- how far New Haven leads the other American cities. We feel ourselves truly on the great, windy frontier of progress, carving out the future, for we aspire to nothing less than the bold newness of a city run by its citizens first, its hired "experts," second. To this great reversal of the order of things we invite all those interested to join.

A Party Symbol for AIM?



A pattern for Black and White emerges.

## vietnam summer cont.

meeting in Branford. The project in the Third District will resemble many projects across the country: neighborhoods will be canvassed; people whose minds are at all open will be invited to a meeting for discussion; out of some of these meetings in the neighborhoods, it is hoped, will come some impetus for wider discussion, deeper study and possibly for action.

From the discussion on the 31st, it became clear that while the face-value character of efforts to contribute to an informed and critical public awareness of the war is educational, the whole effect of the project is unavoidable political. Opinions varied widely on the effectiveness of Vietnam Summer for actually influencing our government and on the possibility of tie-ins with the elections of 1968. People agreed that the canvassing should be flexible in its strategy on the door-step and its general organization. Some participants favored circulating a petition calling in very moderate terms for immediate negotiations, at least as a tactic to be tried. Seminars by a resource committee to help orient all of us who participate in the canvassing were planned. In the coming week office functions will be organized, the first seminars held, and soon Vietnam Summer should be well underway. If you are interested in giving time to Vietnam Summer, either for work in the office, for canvassing, or in any other capacity, please phone in your name and preferences to the AIM office, 787-0123.

## Veterans for Peace

Organize locally a group of Veterans for Peace. Call Richard Mezzotero, 248-2508.





## loop road cont.

I-91 and Trumbull Street via State Street. In the AIM newsletter of January 14, 1967 I discussed the background of this "loop" highway project. On April 11, 1967, I attended the combined hearing of the House and Senate Roads and Bridges Committee in Hartford and made the following statement on behalf of the American Independent Movement:

We are opposed to further study of the so-called "circumferential road" in New Haven, and believe that its construction would do the city irreparable harm.

1) The planners have already made the mistake of bringing together two interstate highways inside the city, which ought not to have been done in the first place. The solution now is not to compound the mistake by building more highways inside the city, but rather to build roads -- if build we must -- outside the city, so that through traffic which does not have any destination in New Haven would be able to avoid the city. Both Baltimore and Washington provide good examples of the advantages of a circumferential road built outside the city.

2) Space in New Haven is at a premium. The proposed road would not only destroy a great deal of property to secure a right-of-way, but would involve numerous interchanges with existing streets. Interchanges, if they are to be adequate for movement of traffic, always require a great deal of land. Several residential areas of the city would be further diminished if this road is built -- persons living on Trumbull Street, lower Dwight and Dixwell areas, and in the Hill would all be displaced and inconvenienced.

3) We believe that it is unfair and undemocratic to build a tunnel for the road where it crosses through Yale University, if the road is not also built underground through the Dwight, Dixwell, and Hill neighborhoods. President Kingman Brewster said that a surface road through Yale would be an "absolute disaster." We say that a surface road through the Dwight, Dixwell, and Hill neighborhoods would be just as much a disaster. Yale University should not have special privileges.

4) We strongly object to the way in which the highway planners have used the Redevelopment Authority to buy up property. Lock Street, Bristol Street, and Lake Place, for example, are all located in the Dixwell Redevelopment Authority area, where the "circumferential road" is supposed to be built. No public hearings on this road have ever been held, and the highway planners insist that they have no definite plans yet -- but the fact is that Lock Street homes are already destroyed, and Redevelopment is now buying property on Lake Place and Bristol Street. We believe the people in the area ought to have a chance to be heard before their homes are all destroyed.

5) Finally, we believe there are far better ways to spend the enormous amount of money that would be required to build the circumferential. Mayor Lee predicted that the road just from Route 91 to Route 34 would cost $15 million to build, and this was more than a year ago. A realistic estimate of the total cost of the circumferential might be $40 million. The money should be spent to meet the problems of the people who now live in New Haven, rather than to build roads to make it easier for suburbanites driving to New Haven. $40 million could rehabilitate thousands of substandard dwelling units, which would be much more to the advantage of the city than a new highway. We insist that housing is more important than highways, and that people are more important than automobiles.

At the present moment the city and the State Highway Department are in considerable disagreement about the loop road. The current session of the General Assembly will only provide funds for further study of the project; the public position of the State Highway Department is that they neither oppose nor favor the project. The difficulty of course is one of cost. Federal funds are not likely to be available, so that New Haven is trying to get State financing. Estimated cost of the one-mile stretch between I-91 and Route 34 is $15 million.

Party-goers at the recent opening festivities of the new Hill Parents Association office.

Very little has been said about the other half of the loop (Howard Avenue and State Street), but there is no doubt that the city plans to push for its construction as well. One of the pending bills before the legislature this year (H.B. 3204) called for the construction of a partial interchange at the intersection of the Oak Street connector and State Street. This bill is a clear indication that the city intends to try to build the whole loop, not just the stretch between I-91 and Route 34 via Trumbull Street.

It is my belief that the loop road can be stopped. Anyone who is interested in working to stop it should call Joan Stone, 389-2979.

by Dan Crofts

## JUNIOR AIM

Junior AIM is presently involved with discussions concerning changes is the administrations of the junior and senior high schools in New Haven and the surrounding area, particularly Hillhouse and Cross. Because of many situations that have arisen that oppress free speech, free publicity, and freedom of appearance and dress, students

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# WHITHER DRAFT RESISTANCE?

Staughton Lynd

Last summer, when the "Fort Hood Three" declared that they would refuse to go to Vietnam, Stokeley Carmichael urged them to go to Harlem and tell their story there. This summer, the organization of opposition to the war in the ghetto is the frontier of peace activity.

Anti-war activity among young people has been undertaken in two kinds of community: the campus and the ghetto. The month of April 1967 represented a turning-point in both kinds of work.

Crucial for the campus anti-war movement was the fact that the We Won't Go group at the University of Cornell, having committed itself to burn draft cards if 500 persons took part, decided on the eve of the April 15 Mobilization to go ahead even if those participating were only fifty. The immediate consequence of this step in faith was that more than 150 burned their cards the next day. Since then, older persons not personally subject to the draft have circulated perhaps as many as half a dozen statements of support. One, initiated by Paul Goodman, explicitly invites men over thirty-five to "join the conspiracy." Another, initiated by Noam Chomsky, is modelled on the statement made by 121 French intellectuals in support of draft resistance to the war in Algeria.

Equally significant for the developing draft resistance movement off the campus were Martin Luther King's advocacy of a "boycott" of the war by young men of draft age, and Muhammed Ali's personal refusal to be inducted.

The potential impact of Muhammed Ali's action was suggested in a column by Tom Wicker. "What happens," asked Wicker, "when enough citizens simply refuse to obey the positive commands of government and of the national majority?" The columnist went on to answer his own question. If, he said, "100,000 young men flatly refused to serve in the armed forces, regardless of their legal position, regardless of the consequences," the Johnson Administration's "real power to pursue the Vietnamese war or any other policy would be crippled if not destroyed. It would then be faced not with dissent but with civil disobedience on a scale amounting to revolt" (New York Times, May 2, 1967; my italics)

A succeeding column by James Reston made clear how the Administration planned to deal with this imminent threat to its war. Draft deferments for college undergraduates will be continued, Reston declared, because Administration officials estimate that one out of every four male undergraduates might simply refuse to go (New York Times, May 5, 1967).

A little arithmetic makes clear the immense and sobering fact that if there were no student deferments 100,000 men would refuse to go and the war would end. Every student and every teacher should ponder what this means for his life.

How shall we confront the second fact that the Administration, making the same calculation we do, plans to continue undergraduate deferments? A way forward is indicated by another product of the April events, the newsletter of the new Draft Resistance Clearing House (8 Francis Court, Madison, Wisconsin 53703; 255-6575) created by a number of We Won't Go groups at a meeting after the Mobilization on April 16. "At this time," the first newsletter states, "most draft resistance activities are located on the campus. When summer comes and most students leave the campuses, the Movement will be extremely vulnerable and scattered. We feel that it is necessary to relocate draft resistance activities to the urban areas where students will probably be located, and where organizing can really begin."

Here is the beginning of an answer to our dilemma, not only (so it seems to me) for the summer but for next winter as well. If the Administration plans to continue student deferments then students must reach out to the young men who are drafted for this war: ghetto youth. Programs need to be developed to make contact with these young men both before and after induction. Draft information centers should be started in off-campus areas (but they should be started slowly and carefully, in consultation with those already doing other kinds of community organization and in the context of that broader program). Research should be done as to the race, class, age, and sex composition of local draft boards, and appropriate legal cases and political demands developed. (Why shouldn't draft board members be elected, or at the very least, like jurymen, be chosen randomly from the same neighborhood as the young men whose lives they will dispose of?)

Such a program would require students to leave the campus and thereby expose themselves to the draft, not for the sake of being martyrs, but because long-term commitments to ghetto communities are necessary to organize effectively. A growing number of young men, one dares hope, will say not only, We Won't Go, but also, We will go to the place where we can do the kind of work which has the most chance to stop this war.

# YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW

"What week of training are you in?"
--I'm not in training.
"Oh, you've finished training?"
--No, I haven't.
"Well, how long have you been here?"
--A year.
"Huh? What's wrong with you?"
--Well you see I'm a conscientious objector....

This is the sort of conversation you might get into if you sat down at a table with basic trainees in the mess hall at Fort Dix, New Jersey. At least, that's been David Brown's experience in the course of his attempt to get a discharge from the Army as a Conscientious Objector whose opposition to war and military service became crystal clear after two weeks of basic training.

At this point the Army has two choices, David Brown says, now that they've turned down his claim for discharge as a CO: they can "give me an order and prosecute me for refusing to carry it out, or they can simply discharge me. The Army's trying to make a decision."

Last June David, a resident of Hamden, said that "as a civilian, I had had an incomplete conception of what the Army was all about. Nowhere is it plainer than in Basic Combat Training: every man in the Army is first of all a soldier, whose mission is to destroy the enemy." Chaplains serve voluntarily, and their job is to service the army's spiritual problems. The duty of medics is stated in the Army Field Manual: "The primary duty of medical troops as of all other troops is to contribute their utmost to the success of the command of which the medical service is a part."
'After Basic, they say, it's different," David wrote. "The only thing different is that the killing-mission is less explicit, and easier to hide from." Soldiers aren't trained in killing, he comments, but in self-defense.

"You might never have to fight," a Chaplain with whom David talked about his CO claim told him. "You should go along -- you might just be assigned to a desk job, become an orderly or a clerk."

But he's stopped dodging the issue and is confronting the military institution he is enmeshed in. "The last thing guys in there need to be told is to not go. What is needed is an attitude of questioning, not of condemnation, to start people thinking about what they're involved in. The guy in service needs others to have some understanding of what he's going through, of our being concerned about them, their humanity, their dignity, as well as of those set up as their victims."



# For Alternatives to the DRAFT

call Betsy Gilbertson 777-8725
9 a.m. to 10 a.m. daily

The preceeding is an ad which will appear in the New Haven Journal-Courier every Saturday. The cost is $4.50. Contributions to keep it in print will be greatly appreciated Send to Karin Cook, 18 Court St., New Haven.

# MILITARY INJUSTICE

Justice in the military is something less than in our society at large, which is to say that there is little justice at all. Most of the time it is administered by people with less than two weeks training in the Universal Code of Military Justice, known as the UCMJ. (I know because I worked for a year in the Marine Corps as a Defense Counsel for a Special Courts Martial after one week of battalion legal school.) The base is a world all its own, in which one is trapped far from the appeals to fair play that are open to some of us, at least, in civilian life.

The organization of a military base is totalitarian; the rule of the high-ranking officers and the military police is absolute. For rather minor offenses, which can always be found to discipline dissenters, a Special Courts Martial (with no trained lawyers present) can give a man 6 months of hard labor, 6 months loss of all pay and allowances, and a Bad Conduct Discharge (known as 6, 6, and a kick). In a General Courts Martial, with some semblance of legal order, a man can get many years in prison and a Dishonorable Discharge.

In this setting, all liberal democratic values are subordinated to military necessity. Those who argue that this is the only way an army can function may be right - which is another good reason for getting rid of armies.

- Robert Cook

David Brown sent the following letter to Senator Kennedy, the chairmen and senior minority members of the House and Senate Armed Services committees and several newspapers. He suggests that the trial of Dr. Levy is a good occasion to exert pressure on lawmakers to change the UCMJ and urges AIM members to write similar letters:

I sympathize strongly with the stand that Capt. Howard Brett Levy has taken regarding training Special Forces personnel at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and I have been following his court-martial with interest.

...At Nuremburg the Allied tribunals made it plain that a soldier's first duty is to his conscience, regardless of the source of his military orders. Those who had responded to orders rather than their consciences were severely punished, and now Capt. Levy faces severe punishment also, but because he obeyed his conscience rather than his orders. It is time that the Army find its excuses of "military expediency" given the same treatment accorded the similar excuses of Nazi war criminals: the Uniform Code of Military Justice must be amended to specifically allow claims of conscience and of religious and ethical scruples as valid defenses for the man charged with disobedience.

...an Army lawyer is quoted as saying that "the Army, 'with its recognized demonstrated need for uniformity and discipline,' has realized that ' even truth cannot be used to bring about a palpable injury to good order and discipline!' (New York Times, 16 May 67, p 8) When such a statement can be publically made, the Army has killed far more than a few politically and ideologically unfriendly aliens: it has killed within itself the spirit of forthright integrity that is central to American ideals. This situation must be changed, at least to the extent that resolutely truthful citizen-soldiers not be prosecuted, but instead be simply eliminated for "telling the truth when the truth hurts."....

# "TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE A BLIGHTING INFLUENCE"

OR THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL COMMISSION ON URBAN PROBLEMS COMES TO NEW HAVEN.

"Mayor Lee is a consummate politician and an imaginative man with great integrity." Herbert Kaufman.

"Lee is a dictator." Fred Harris.

"Lee is trying to deal with a cauldron which can only be pacified at a scale beyond New Haven's capabilities." Jack Meltzer.

"Mayor Lee says one thing - build - build - build. What does he build? Parking lots!" Columbus Kiensler.

And so it went. The two worlds of the polished, liberal establishment and the angry, black subjects of urban renewal were sharply contrasted in last Thursday's "public hearing" at Conte School. The President's National Commission on Urban Problems, headed by former Senator Paul Douglas, is holding hearings around the country to get to the people and away from Washington. One of the Commission members even naively complained to Fred Harris: "We want to hear people like you, but they don't come out. How do we reach them?" Fred's answer: "Find out who they don't want you to talk to, then go talk to them." He might have added: Try some advance publicity, get lead men out in the cities, and take more than 4 hours in each place (would 2-3 days be too much to ask?).

Mayor Lee was the first witness, somewhat chagrined by the absence of Senator Douglas. Lee certainly is a consummate politician. The tone for the day was set by his disarming style, in which he self-effacingly pats his own back. "If New Haven is a model city, God help Urban America." All the right things were said: We need more housing for large families; we must avoid ghettoization; for every two things we've done right there are five things we've done wrong. And, with righteous indignation, "The city is everybody's problem."

No Commissioner asked any hard questions, in fact they all seemed like straight men. Lee had a field day. Only if one saw through some of his language could you catch his slips. Why did 12-14,000 people leave New Haven in the last 17 years? Because of the "usual kind of ethnic problem" and the destruction of slum dwellings. What was wrong with Wooster Square before renewal? It was "old-fashioned," not "modern," and "too many people are a blighting influence." Oak Street now brings in ten times as much tax revenue as it did before renewal, but service costs, such as police and welfare, are down. Does this have anything to do with the lack of people? For awhile, it seemed as though the entire one-half billion dollars spent on physical renewal in New Haven was justified by the 15 people who died in a fire in an old factory. If that's true, what should we do with our highways?

The Mayor was smooth, but like many of those who testified, he lacked fire and vision. With Svirdoff who followed, he asserted the need for regional planning and control, but could just say it's not now possible, or "practical." Everything, he said, would be better with more money. But no one questioned spending $30 billion a year in Vietnam.

As Lee finished, Fred Harris and a group from the Hill jumped up demanding a hearing. When told by the chairman that they would try, Fred said "Try? You'll try? These are our lives you're dealing with," and led a walkout. The administrative assistant in charge of arrangements rushed out after him and promised them some time after the next witnesses, Jack Meltzer, Director of the Urban Studies center at the University of Chicago, and Mitchell Svirdoff, Lee's (one wants to say God's) gift to New York City.

Meltzer read a long, reasoned paper which had most people looking at the ceiling. He had some good things to say, but had them so dressed up in academic jargon that few people heard them. For instance, he talked about the lack of the "necessary social sanctions and commitment to really deal with the problems of the city." What he means is, most people don't care about poverty. He argued that the city must be a place of fluidity, with opportunities for gradually staged upward mobility (for example, the standard immigrant pattern of poor ethnic neighborhood to mixed neighborhood to single family middle class housing) Urban renewal, he said, is now encouraging stability and forcing people to make large jumps in status (for example from poor ghetto to middle class housing). All this, of course, would be fine 50 years ago. But today, we have to recognize that the United States needs a bottom, an underclass, for economic and social reasons (how could one be middle class if there is no lower class?) There are no more immigrants, so this bottom is either going to be fairly stable, or there is going to be mobility downward into it. Either way, neither the War on Poverty or the old up and out pattern is going to change the position of the masses of poor.

For Svirdoff, poverty is big business One C.P.I. employee has said of him that, "He's a politician who's too smart to run for office." He speaks the new, inhuman language of "human resource development." We need a "human resource strategy," just like we have an "economic strategy" and a "defense strategy." We have to develop our "Human resources systems" with "new and imaginative programs." (Are "programs" always "new and imaginative"?) Svirdoff seemed tired - he used his usual language but the words lacked conviction. The limits of his imagination were revealed in his answer to a question on employment in New York City - "There is the Brooklyn Navy Yard," and in his support for the idea of an urban "tax shelter," like the oil depletion allowance, to encourage private investment in the city. Like the oil depletion allowance, this would just make a few men rich on public resources at the expense of the people. Instead, I suggest we raise income taxes, confiscate slum property, turn it over to the tenants and pay them a decent salary to fix it up.

For Fred Harris, Columbus Kiensler, and J.R. Townsend from the Hill Parents Association, the chairman imposed the "10 minute rule." As Fred said, "It's unfortunate that we have to do this type of thing to be recognized as human beings. All we want is a decent place to live, decent schools for our children, and decent rent." About C.P.I. - "the only thing the poverty program has done is to buy off the black leadership; Lee controls the whole poverty program." On relocation, Kiensler said, "Where are you going to put us - you can't put us all in Westville. If you look around New Haven, you'll see more parking lots than apartment buildings." The Commission was struck by the honesty and directness of these statements, but was reassured when Svirdoff asserted "By statistical standards New Haven has the highest level of housing integration in the state and even in the nation." But Fred wasn't talking about statistics and integration, he was talking about real people, their houses, and their neighborhoods.

Things got worse in the afternoon. Prof. Herbert Kaufman of Yale presented the wisdom of liberal political science. "The weakness of the chief executive (Mayor) at the local level is the prime source of difficulty" in dealing with urban problems. There are "too many newly organized groups (read Negroes) making their claims for registering their preferences on the political system." This is a democrat? Kaufman did manage the day's most humorous statement when he said "Everybody in New Haven shudders to think of the day when Dick Lee will no longer be Mayor - maybe it will never happen."

The low point of the day was lengthy testimony by Lawrence Cox, Executive Director of the Housing Authority in Norfolk, Virginia. He was incredibly self-satisfied, smug, dull and bureaucratic. Sen. Douglas congratulated him on being in office since 1940. He should have offered condolences, as Cox showed no signs of being alive.

Three "citizens," Larry DeNardis, Steve Papa, and I, were given five minutes apiece to present our views. DeNardis, of the liberal Republican Ripon Society, read a statement of some now familiar criticism of renewal stressing housing and relocation, lifted mainly from AIM newsletters and a Yale Planning Studio. Papa made a plea for the little man. I tried to give a rapid-fire summary of our more fundamental critique: renewal is destroying the city, not rebuilding it; we need more democracy, not less, and must mobilize the talents and energies of all our citizens through participation in the planning process; a serious effort to eliminate poverty in the U.S. requires the redistribution of income, reducing the gap between classes by the wholesale movement of a group of people relative to the rest of the society (as opposed to individual mobility).

As it was almost 4:30 p.m. and the Commissioners were tired after a hard day's work, there were no questions.

At the end of his testimony, Jack told the Commission that "The nation looks forward to your report to provide insights as to how we get out of this jungle." To paraphrase Mayor Lee, "If this is all we have to look forward to, God help urban America."

- Robert Cook

# PICKETING THE GOVERNORS

On Monday May 11, a group of about 20 people from New Haven AIM joined with other groups from across Connecticut to demonstrate at Bradley Field where President Johnson was to land for the New England Governors' Conference. Despite bad weather, almost 100 "peace people" turned out, many of them high school students and housewives. Approximately 50 policemen forced us to remain across the street from the building where the conference was to be held Johnson was brought in from the airport side, thus hiding him from the crowd.

In addition to the usual counter-demonstrators, a contingent of Cuban refugees showed up, demanding to see Johnson in person, in order to present him with a petition. The police also refused to let them pass, although a Secret Service agent offered to read the petition.

The demonstration seems to have served two purposes. First, we obtained a reasonable press coverage in the Hartford area, thus keeping Vietnam alive as a political issue. Second, people in the peace movement from across the state met and worked together. This kind of contact must be continued if the movement is to continue its growth. Finally, many of us saw a rather graphic representation of America's solution to her problems, which of course is to ignore them and send out the cops.

# STUDENT MOBILIZATION

By Richard Mann

On May 13th and 14th I represented AIM at the Student Mobilization Conference in Chicago. About 500 people attended the conference, which was called to coordinate national student activity against the war in Vietnam.

The conference passed several major resolutions. It called upon the Spring Mobilization Committee to organize a large scale demonstration in Washington this fall. I opposed that resolution on the grounds that it would be too soon after the New York and San Francisco marches, and that we should concentrate on organizing in communities instead. The conference supported coordinated anti-war referenda similar to the Dearborn, Michigan referendum, and called for abolition of 2-S (student) draft deferments.

The most significant part of the conference was a report by the black student workshop. The report called the much discussed merger of the peace and civil rights movements a sham. It suggested that to make that merger a reality, whites should organize in white neighborhoods on the joint issues of peace and civil rights, and that both blacks and whites should be organized into anti-draft unions.



# TALKIN SILVER SPRING MARYLAND BLUES

I was goin to school, the junior high kind,
When my history teacher spoke her mind:
"Those colored folk ridin in their flashy cars
Have filthy houses and dirty yards
Because they're lazy & they're values are wrong;
No ambition: drinkin & singin a low-life song.
You can tell good people by a nice clean home,
They don't spend all their money on liquor & chrome."
Now that's what I heard about the reason why
D.C. Negroes had no Nice houses to buy.

Not a word about housing that was strictly Jim Crow,
Or a landlord not repairin so his profits would grow;
Or the work ads for them sayin "Wanted: A Boy...";
Or Congress ruling the city like a captive convoy;
Or that the only choice, if you're not a rich man,
Is to buy what's sold on the installment plan
And pay each week; but if the kids are ill
And you don't sacrifice the prescription to fill,
it's all repossed 'cause one payment's not met,
And then hidden charges bring on endless debt;
Or that information's not free about birth control,
And no one begets to get more on the dole.

Meanwhile, back in my class, two grades later in '54,
The Supreme Court said Every school has to open its door,
And ours let in Dorothy, who wore a bright orange skirt,
And my dear friend Suzanne said her eyes were hurt.
At least that scheme's changed: such orange tones are in,
And hippies say, "Let's join in one electric love skin."
They're affluent in one tongue; & Mike Avery
said with conviction,
"Living in poverty means living in a contradiction."

There's more to say about this state in other lands
Where halos are won by anti-communist stands,
And we supply stainless robes and the latest altars,
and sanction holy wars where the gospel falters.
But I don't know the verses of the rest very well,
'Cause there's a lot more to it than my teachers could tell.

- Elizabeth Rose

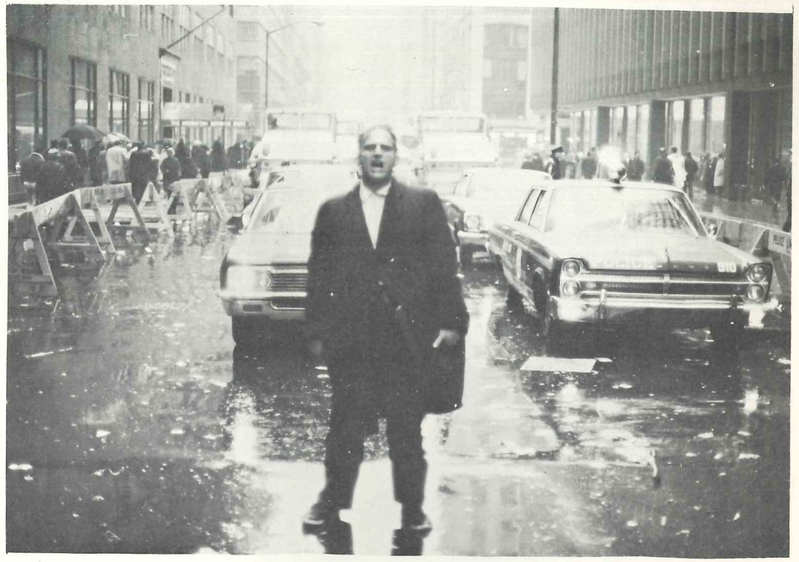
# PROTEST ON THE GREEN

On May 23 homebound New Haveners witnessed an unusual demonstration against the war. John Hersey, whose Pulitizer-prize winning book Hiroshima documented the lunacy of our decision to drop the bomb and the horror of its consequences, and Vincent Scully, a New Haven born Yale professor who has long fought a valiant fight against redevelopment barbarism, joined in leading a group of six hundred New Haven educators and students in a dignified procession around the Green. The procession was an attempt to dramatize the vain hope that the 24 hour Tet truce would be continued indefinitely and be followed by sincere negotiations. Hersey carried an American flag. Two students followed Scully with a sign reading "Let the truce become peace." The march was preceded by an hour of meditation and moderately expressed protest in Yale's Battell Chapel.

The service was conducted by two churchmen--one Catholic and one Protestant, by three distinguished professors representing the fields of law, history and the history of art, and by one Yale undergraduate.

The most challenging note was struck by Father Clement Burns of Albertus Magnus. He asked every person to look into his conscience and decide at what point he would choose to dissociate himself fully from his government: when the U.S government invades North Vietnam? when the U.S. bombs China? when the U.S. resorts to nuclear weapons? Referring to the many young men who have fled to Canada rather than be forced to serve in an immoral war, Father Burns expressed horror and amazement that there would be such a thing as "political refugees" from the United States of America.

The procession was the largest and most dramatic act of protest against the war which New Haven has witnessed. It was timed to halt the rush hour traffic at 5 p.m.



The last marcher in the New York April 15th Mobilization march.

for almost half an hour. The Journal-Courier carried a front-page picture and a sympathetic account the next morning. The crowd of onlookers displayed no hostility. In these respects the protest was "successful." Yet the emphasis on well-known names and the generally deferential tone of the addresses suggests the commitment of its organizers to the "prestige' approach to protest. This view assumes that if only enough "important" people make known their opposition, the war will end. The war is so horrible that one hesitates to question any approach which might possibly work. Yet it is a depressing comment on the actual functioning of democracy in this country if the deep concern of thousands of ordinary citizens count for nothing. But even granting the disturbing assumptions of the organizers of this procession, it seems unfortunate that not even the New Haven Council of Churches, which supported the April 15th mobilization, was contacted. And although several Yale members of AIM attended, no effort was made to use the AIM mailing list to attract a larger turnout. Better communication and cooperation among those who work to end the war are essential if any approach is to bear fruit.

# junior aim cont.

feel it is necessary to make the rules of the individual school administrations clear to the student body.

At our last meeting, Prof. Louis Pollak, who is on the New Haven School Board and Prof. Thomas Emerson of the Civil Liberties Council discussed rulings of the School Board and the means by which a body of students could gain "Student Power." In general, Junior AIM has decided to organize themselves during the summer and early fall months to finally obtain free bulletin boards, not only to post signes in reference to anti-draft meetings, but also those concerning anything from concerts, plays and dances to drag races and love-ins.

Many Junior AIM members will be working with the Vietnam Summer Project. Some of us are now circulating an open letter to Mohammud Ali from students in New Haven who support his position Sometime in late June we'll hold a work day to help support the Hill Parents Association. Call Wendy Gordon, 387-0618, if you have work for us to do.

Independent Political Action Committee
241 Orange Street
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Connecticut 06510

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# AIM

# MY RIFLE

(Taken from the Parris Island - United States Marine Corp - yearbook)

THIS IS MY RIFLE. There are many like it but this one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I master my life.

My rifle, without me is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will...

My rifle and myself know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit...

My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn its weakness, its strength, its parts, its accessories, its sights, and its barrel.. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other.

We will...

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and myself are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy, but Peace!